



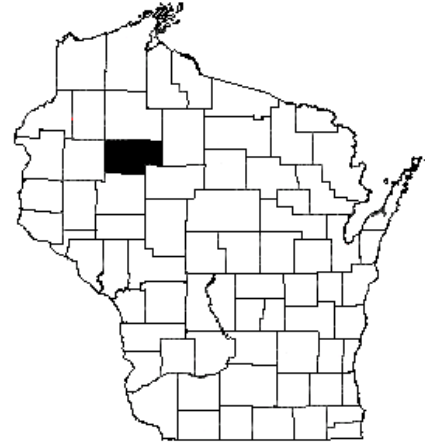
# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## RUSK

### ***County characteristics***

- 913 sq. mi.
- Southern portion is farmland/woodlot; Northern portion is mainly woodland and contains public forest properties.
- 250 lakes; 33 are publicly accessible and total 6,573 acres
- 124 miles of trout stream and 84 miles of floatable rivers.
- There are 15,458 residents living in Rusk County.
- Over 110,000 acres open to hunting and fishing.



### ***Public Land Open to Hunting and Fishing***

- 19% of Rusk County is publicly-owned land. Rusk County Forest & Parks 91,382 ac., Flambeau River State Forest 15,202 ac., State Wildlife Areas 2,908 ac., State Fish Properties 365 ac.

Locate DNR properties at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_lands\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html)

### ***Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you***

- 1 Wildlife Biologist, 1 Wildlife Technician, 1 Fisheries Biologist; 1 Fisheries Technician, 1 Conservation Warden, 2 Customer Service Representatives

Office, N4103 Hwy 27, Ladysmith WI 54848

Staff also serve Taylor, Sawyer and Price Co.

### ***Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars***

- Fish population surveys to evaluate baseline conditions for upcoming fishery management plans.
- Cooperative project with Muskies Inc, and Rusk Co WRA to stock muskellunge in Island Lake.
- Intensive trout habitat protection (easements), restoration (livestock exclusion and crossings) and enhancement (lunker structures, etc.) on South Fork Main Creek to sustain unique, high-quality population of self-sustaining brook trout.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, as well as, building and maintaining parking areas.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, woodcock, deer, bear, frogs, grassland birds, wolves, eagles, osprey, furbearers, sharptail grouse, and various endangered and threatened species.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.

*Activities continued...*

- Evaluate proposed transportation and other wetland projects for environmental impacts; mitigate damage to wildlife and habitat.
- Ladysmith-based wildlife technician provides educational service for schools, outdoor skills events and resource based organizations.
- Other staff provide educational program for schools, conservation organizations & civic groups.

## **Rusk County Conservation Snapshots**

3 DNR Boat Launches  
16 ALIS Agents Supported  
8 Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration Stations



## **Fish Stocking Summary**

- Stocking in 2003. Small fingerling walleye- 77,680 in 7 lakes, large fingerling muskellunge -1,482 in 5 lakes, and small fingerling wild-strain brown trout - 3,200 in 2 streams.

## **County Success Stories**

- Reconstruction of the County owned Lea Lake flowage dam was accomplished in part with license dollars.
- Fisheries staff negotiated a 33-year agreement with Dairyland Power Cooperative to operate the Flambeau Hydroelectric Station under stable flow to improve aquatic habitat, fish production, and navigation in the lower Flambeau River.
- Wildlife staff provides input on county forest plans and helps develop wildlife projects wildlife projects on the Rusk County Forest.

## **Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities**

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management